

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203604

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, UR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH KHMER FOREIGN MINISTER

1. KHMER FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET IN WASHINGTON FOR THE DAY OF OCTOBER 12 AND AN APPOINTMENT WITH SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MANSFIELD MET DEPTOFFS FOR LUNCH. ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR UM SIM, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT PAN SOTHI AND SENATE MEMBER ONG SIM , BORET SAID HE THOUGHT THE MEETING WITH MANSFIELD WAS USEFUL. UM SIM SAID HE FOUND THE SENATOR "LESS RIGID" IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD CAMBODIA.

2. IN A GENERAL CONVERSATION CONCERNING THE UNITED NATIONS, BORET DISCUSSED POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THE CHANGE IN SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GKR. THE KHMER FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED WITH DEPTOFFS' ASSESSMENTS THAT THE CHANGE  
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WAS CAUSED BY A COMBINATION OF SIHANOUK'S ATTACKS AND A

DESIRE TO STAY IN GOOD ODOR WITH THE THIRD WORLD. BORET ALSO FELT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE SOVIETS BELIEVE (DESPITE US REASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY) THAT THE US WAS GOING TO WORK OUT A DEAL WITH THE PRC CONCERNING THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION. BORET SAID THAT KHMER PERMREP THOUTCH VUTTHI HAD CONVERSATION WITH THE HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT NEW YORK AND QUERIED HIM AS TO REASONS FOR APPARENT SOVIET CHANGE. HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVE TOLD VUTTHI (AT A PRIVATE DINNER) THAT HE BELIEVED THE SOVIETS, FOLLOWING THE ALGIERS

CONFERENCE, DECIDED TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION BECAUSE OF THIRD WORLD PRESSURES AND FINALLY CAVED AT NEW YORK WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT SIHANOUK'S SUPPORTERS WERE GOING TO PUSH A RESOLUTION IN THE GA WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAD THE VOTES TO WIN. BORET SAID THAT AT THE KHMER NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AT NEW YORK OCTOBER 11 REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME 60 DELEGATIONS SHOWED UP BUT THAT THE ONLY COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES WERE THE EAST GERMANS AND THE MONGOLIANS. BORET RECALLED THAT A SOVIET REP SHOWED UP A YEAR AGO AT A SIMILAR RECEPTION. HE ADDED THAT THE EAST GERMANS ALWAYS SHOWED SOME INDEPENDENCE IN PHNOM PENH, E.G. OFFICIALLY USING "KHMER REPUBLIC" RATHER THAN "CAMBODIA", USED BY OTHER COMMUNIST MISSIONS.

3. BORET ASKED DEPTOFFS' OPINION OF WHAT THE GKR REACTION SHOULD BE IF THE REPORT OF SOVIET CHANGE OF HEART SHOULD, AS IT MOST LIKELY WOULD, TURN OUT TO BE TRUE. DEPTOFFS RESPONDED THAT THE PROBLEM HAD NOT BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH COMPLETELY, GIVEN LACK OF PRECISE INFORMATION AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. HOWEVER, DEPTOFFS AVERRED THAT IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT THE RUSSIANS AND THEIR ALLIES WOULD CONTINUE TO ABSTAIN ON THE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE OR AT LEAST ABSTAIN ON AN "IMPORTANT QUESTION" RESOLUTION, THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THE SUPPORTERS OF GRUNK BY FORCING A REQUIREMENT FOR A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. IT WAS LEFT THAT DEPTOFFS WOULD CONSULT AND PASS THE WORD TO BORET IN NEW YORK.

4. CONCERNING INTERNAL KHMER POLITICAL SITUATION, BORET  
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SAID THAT HE HAS ALREADY CABLED PHNOM PENH AND REQUESTED THAT THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL KEEP IN TAM ON AS PRIME MINISTER, AT LEAST UNTIL THE UNITED NATIONS SITUATION WAS RESOLVED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE GKR SHOULD DO NOTHING PRECIPITATE AND SHOULD AWAIT FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION

AND ITS ALLIES. LITTLE WOULD BE GAINED IF RELATIONS  
BETWEEN THE KHMER AND THE USSR WERE SEVERED, AND, IN  
FACT, MIGHT PUSH SOVIETS FURTHER THAN THEY REALLY INTEND  
TO GO. REQUEST USUN PASS THESE THOUGHTS TO BORET AND  
EMBASSY PHNOM PENH TO GKR. KISSINGER

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